(c) Construction of Melli-Rangpo road is included in Phase B of Special Accelerated Road Development Programme-North East (SARDP-NE), which has since been approved by the Government for preparation on Detailed Project Reports.

(d) Since investment decision about all the projects included under Phase-B of SARDP-NE including Melli-Rangpo road is yet to be taken by the Government, it is too early to indicate as to when the project will be cleared/implemented.

Streamline of tollgate problems

1142. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to heavy tollgate fees some of the sectors of the newly constructed National Highways are not in operation to their full capacity;

(b) whether Government are aware of the passers by being harassed by the tollgate contractors, and

(c) whether Government have any plans to streamline the tollgate related problems in the newly constructed National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Some instances of harassment of road users by some fee collecting agencies have come to notice. Immediate action is taken, whenever any complaint is received in the matter.

(c) To streamline various toll related problems, existing toll policy is under reivew by a sub-committee of Committee of Secretaries.

Extension of Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway

1143. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that extension of Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway upto Mumbai is proposed to be undertaken under the National Highway Development Programme;

(b) if so, any time bound programme has been framed for the completion of the project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It would be around 400 km long Expressway as per proposed plan under National Highways Development Project Phase-VI and will be completed by 2014-15.

Reimbursement of expenditure incurred on maintenance of NH

1144. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Rajasthan has requested for reimbursement of expenditure incurred on maintenance of NH-11, which has been transferred to NHAI;

(b) if so, the action taken by NHAI; and

(c) whether Government are preparing a clear policy for maintenance of four lane NHAI roads during construction phase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bharatpur-Jaipur section of National Highway 11 has been entrusted to National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) on 04.08.2005. Public Works Department, Rajasthan had forwarded an estimate for repairs of patch/pot holes of this stretch for Rs. 90.44 lakh to NHAI. This estimate was modified for Rs. 47.81 lakh and subsequently the amount was released by NHAI for maintenance.

(c) During the construction phase road is being maintained by civil works contractor or BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) concessionaire, as the case may be. Specific provision for this is made under the contract/ concession agreements.

Release of balance funds

1145. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: